

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

April 28, 2009

California law allows prosecutors and law enforcement to seek court-ordered civil gang injunctions on gang members who terrorize a community. Injunctions are powerful tools that target specific gangs and gang members. They increase neighborhood safety and peace by limiting the gang's ability to engage in behaviors that promote criminal activity, intimidation, and fear.

Gang injunctions are permanent orders and have helped communities throughout Los Angeles County reclaim areas previously held hostage by gangs. A 2004 report by the Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury found civil gang injunctions to be an effective strategy to combat gangs and recommended their expanded use to suppress and intervene in gang activities.

SB 282 (Wright) would limit the duration of gang injunctions to five years. Such a time limitation would significantly decrease the effectiveness this strategy, as gang injunctions are large-scale efforts that often take up to two years to develop, obtain, and implement. In addition, while the impact of gang injunctions can be immediate, it can take three years or more for long-term results to take root.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

By imposing a five-year limit on gang injunctions, SB 282 reduces both the efficiency and effectiveness of gang abatement efforts and, in so doing, compromises public safety.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors oppose SB 282 unless amended to delete the language instituting a time limit on injunctions.

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